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Does memo in Westy case set it write?

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A former CIA Vietnamese specialist testified at the Gen. William Westmoreland libel trial yesterday that he had a deputy prepare a 1967 memo to resolve what was called the "political problem" of enemy troop strength and minimize "the inquisitive probings of the press."

George Carver, a CIA special assistant for Vietnamese affairs from 1966 to 1973, said that the memo, prepared by George W. Allen, noted that "the political problem is one essentially cosmetic in nature, i.e., how to rationalize a sudden increase in MACV's battle holdings (enemy troop strength). The fact of a sudden increase cannot be completely disguised from the inquisitive probings of the press, but the impact can be minimized by a variety of means." MACV was the Military Assistance Command Vietnam.

THE MEMO proposed to divide battle groups into military and non-military so as to keep official enemy troop strength at about 300,000.

It suggested placing those in the self-defense forces, mainly Viet Cong villagers, in the non-military category.

It maintained that this would be a "more meaningful listing of the strength figures."

Westmoreland, who commanded U.S. forces in Vietnam, is suing CBS for \$120 million, charging that he was libeled by the 1982 television documentary, "The Un-

counted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception."

In the program, he was accused of deliberately undercounting enemy troop strength to hide America's lack of effectiveness in the war.

QUESTIONED by Westmoreland's attorney, Daniel Burt, Carver said that both he and Sam Adams, a CIA Vietnam analyst, agreed to the Allen memo.

Adams, who later contributed information to CBS for the documentary, is a defendant in the case, along with CBS and the show's narrator, Mike Wallace.

In his testimony, Carver, who was Adams' boss, was critical of Adams for later sending a "half-cocked" cable in Carver's name to the CIA station in Saigon oppos-

ing official enemy strength estimates.

He said that Adams was "prone to jump to conclusions and was very intolerant of people who did not share the conclusions to which he jumped."

Carver said that he had decided that the self-defense forces, which included young boys, women and old men, were not a military threat.

Adams' analysis, based on captured enemy documents in 1966 and 1967, led him to the opposite conclusion.



Judge Pierre Leval and Gen. William Westmoreland (left) hear testimony of George Carver, one-time CIA special assistant for Vietnamese affairs, yesterday in Manhattan Federal Court.

JOSEPH PAPIN DAILY NEWS